Docket No.: NHL-NP-46 Serial No.: 10/816,591 Customer No.: 00432

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A DNA expression construct for the treatment of infections with leishmania, as well as a corresponding vaccine. This vaccine serves to immunize against leishmaniasis, where in particular the immunogenic p36 LACK antigen is used to elicit an immune response. As a gene shuttle, a linear double stranded, covalently closed expression cassette is employed. The gene expression construct can be attached to an oligopeptide to increase transfection efficacy.